

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SY-05 EB-07

PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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O R 071535Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7792

INFO US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS 2055

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, GR (BASSEN, DENNIS GARTH)

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: ATHENS, 1836 AND PREVIOUS

1. FIRST PRESS COVERAGE OF ARREST CASE APPEARED TODAY IN AFTERNOON EDITIONS OF TA NEA AND ESTIA. SUBJECT'S NAME NOT GIVEN AND STORIES CONSIDERABLY DISTORTED.

2. TA NEA REPORTS IN SO-CALLED EXCLUSIVE NEWS ITEM THAT AN AMERICAN OFFICER OF UNSPECIFIED RANK ARRESTED BY GREEK AUTHORITIES OUTSIDE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN AGHIA PARASKEVI LAST WEEK FOR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A DISTANCE. CAMERAS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOUND ON HIS PERSON CONFISCATED.

3. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT ARRESTED OFFICER HAD BEEN UNDER SUSPICION AND SHADOWED DUE PROLONGED PRESENCE IN AREA OF SDAM (MILITARY COMMAND OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN). ARRESTED BEING QUESTIONED BY SECURITY SERVICES, BUT CONTENDS HE WAS ONLY TAKING TOURIST PHOTOGRAPHS. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT ABSOLUTE SECRECY BEING MAINTAINED BY AUTHORITIES, WHO CLAIM THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF EVENT. ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT ARREST CASE BEING EXAMINED TOGETHER WITH CASE OF ANOTHER ALIEN WHO

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WAS TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS LAST JULY OF SHIPS DEPARTING PIRAEUS

AND PERAMA AFTER THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS.

4. ESTIA REPEATS SUBSTANCE PARA 2 AND REFERS TO SIMILAR INCIDENT IN NICOSIA AFTER WHICH FOUR AMCITS ARRESTED FOR PHOTOGRAPHING NATIONAL GUARD OUTPOSTS, LEADING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE STATIONING OF Y-2 ESPIONAGE PLANES ON CYPRUS.

5. USIS PRESS OFFICER RELEASED STORY TO MILITARY REPORTER OF ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS TODAY INCLUDING BASSEN'S NAME, EMPLOYER, AND FACT HE WORKING ON NATO PROJECT FOR HELLENIC NAVY. REPORTER STATED MINISTER OF DEFENSE AVEROFF WOULD BE QUESTIONED THIS EVENING RE CASE.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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